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6-21-1787

### Jacob Morris to John Rutherford, June 21, 1787

Jacob Morris

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Putnam Creek 12 miles from the  
mananilla mouth on the coast 21 June 1879.

Dear Ruthinford

The friendly solicitude  
you discovered for the success of my present  
undertaking merits a letter from me to acquaint  
you of my operations since I left you, how I am  
now situated, and of my future intentions, prospects  
& reputations &c.

As far as a Camp & Schuactady  
I came in very handsomely, having had a fine  
short passage to the former place, and embarked  
all my manacles, and dispatched four waggons  
for the latter place in less than two hours  
after my arrival, and proceeded immediately  
for that place where I came that evening.

I was not however quite so rapid in  
getting my stores up the Mohawk, by the  
waggons of the Battanum they were near  
four days getting from Schuactady to the



carrying place for Lake Otago 18 miles. Mr. I was at  
some additional expense on acct. of my falling in with the  
company for running the boundary line between the Pines  
who were going the same route had occasion for 15 or 20  
waggons and the inhabitants were extravagant in their  
demands for Team hire - It took us 3 days by reason of  
the excessive bad roads to get over when there  
I was much at a loss which way to proceed however  
as I had written to a man last winter to come  
over and look at this part of the country and  
report to me respecting it I concluded it was best  
to leave all my things in store at the north  
end of the lake and embark with the company  
who were going down the Snoghitannah in Batmans  
& go with him as far as this man, who I had not  
heard from, and who lives about 20 miles below  
Otago on the above mentioned river. when I came  
there I found he had been out and he gave me  
a tolerable acct. of it and was of opinion that  
I could transport my stores by water to my intended  
spot of residence though he could not speak with  
certainty for he had never visited this creek - this was



enough for ~~me~~ me, as I knew full well the great difficulty  
of land transportation in this country at this time - I  
therefore immediately set about to procure a Battuan &  
hands. The former I could not hire, and therefore applied  
to a man who has a great respect for Run to Carter  
that article with him for one he was possessed of and  
we soon struck the bargain for 8 Gallons - of that article  
which I could conveniently spare having more a long  
with me than I believe I shall consume before winter.

Thus I became master of a Battuan my  
own property, obtained two good hands and sent them  
off for a boat with orders to him to stay at Cutty's  
on the ~~augustannah~~ <sup>augustannah</sup> if they should return before me.

I then set out with one of the Cutty's to look at  
this spot myself it being about 20 miles from his  
House as the path now runs to the Butternuts across  
the Otsego creek. I left Monsieur De Witteers  
a French man who is making a very respectable  
settlement at the Butternuts six miles from where I shall  
quit, come down in the morning and did not hesitate  
long to determine on this spot as the place of my  
future residence - My situation is at the north



north end of my Father's uncle Richards Patent  
near the confluence of the great mill & Butternut  
creeks, two as powerful runs of water as we were  
seen in the world. The spot where I am preparing to  
build a saw mill upon immediately within  
100 yards of where I met my House, which will be  
that distance from that creek, having a fine spring  
running between the House & creek and a fine tract of  
land in front as healthy a country as any in the  
world. I lay out in the woods one night & returned  
to D. Orkus next day from thence up to one Turpicks  
near Lake Conederaga, which ride satisfied me that  
as far as road with eye & eye be made to the  
north end of Lake Osego that way about 40 miles  
from hence as we were to do the same distance in  
any back country.

From thence I returned to Cuthbert, the  
next day, and found my Father had of health. The  
heavy rains had swelled the River so much, that it  
was not thought advisable to go down directly. This  
induced me to go up to Stark as the rapidity of the  
Father had induced him to have Cuthbert several  
things. I particularly requested him to bring, among other



were some that were indispensable necessary  
for me to have directly.

On my return we judge the  
water had fallen sufficiently for us to proceed.  
This being an improvement of some difficulty  
& danger, and the cargo of too much consequence  
to me to hazard out of my view any longer  
thought proper to go on this expedited in person we  
accordingly embarked on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> inst. at  
Culiacan that evening reached the mouth of the  
Urandilla 35 miles proceeded up this last ment.  
river the next day about 8 miles, & came up this  
creek about 2 miles that evening being the first white  
run that was attempted its navigation - after meeting  
with several obstructions from fallen trees & logs which  
are easy to be found in small Rivers near Cofre  
Chico, and often in those constantly used we  
arrived in front of my Quilting spot with  
a full Hoarded Battalion on Sunday the  
17<sup>th</sup> inst. being about 12 miles up the Bateman



crack, from where it falls into the Maudslayi  
river. I do solemnly declare it is the handsomest  
navigable creek I ever lay my eyes upon.

I am now in my first house & have a lot  
to clear a spot to pitch it as this house was before  
it was cut down by the hand of man within  
four miles of me.

I have as yet only had two hands  
chopping for me since Sunday, indeed one of them I was  
obliged to send yesterday to Absego for Thomas the  
other is employed in cutting down logs for a small  
log mill I want to erect & cover with bark for the  
accommodation of my work people.

Again it will cost me a very small trifle  
more to build a frame house than a log one and  
the latter will last only a few years and is literally out  
of order sinking upon the floor & window frames & is  
always a dirty place. I shall therefore this year  
build a frame one that will do for ever & ever to  
convert to the use of a Kitchen 24 by 16 feet and  
next year with my saw mill build an addition.

I wish you would come & see me you probably



find me either chopping cooking or work of that sort  
(there is no female within six miles of me)

Since this letter if you please under cover to  
my dearest fr & Brother Lewis as I have not  
time or convenience at present to write him

My love to my dear sister  
her sweet cheeks -

I sincerely hope & trust the  
has settled that matter with you

I remain my dear Sir &c

P.S.  
On reading what you before

I find I have been a most

unpardonable idiot. a

Brother will I hope excuse it -

soon as is the time for transportation  
in this country.

Yours truly &c  
John Rutherford Esq

Your fr & Brother  
Jacob Morris



John Rutherford & Co. Quin

Broadway

New York

Post